

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 AGR-05 EB-07 COME-00

IGA-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 INRE-00 HEW-02 PA-01

PRS-01 USIA-06 DODE-00 /071 W

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R 200955Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9756

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, OTRA, IN (GREEN, AMBASSADOR MARSHALL)

SUBJ: VISIT OF AMBASSADOR MARSHALL GREEN, COORDINATOR OF  
POPULATION AFFAIRS, FEBRUARY 10-13

SUMMARY: DURING HIS FEBRUARY 10-13 VISIT TO DACCA,  
AMBASSADOR MARSHALL GREEN, COORDINATOR OF POPULATION AF-

FAIRS, MET WITH A VARIETY OF BDG OFFICIALS, MISSION PER-  
SONNEL AND OTHERS INVOLVED IN POPULATION CONTROL EFFORTS.  
THE VISIT OFFERED AMBASSADOR GREEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO WEIGH  
THE PLANS, DETERMINATION AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE BANGLADESH  
GOVERNMENT (BDG) AGAINST THE ENORMITY OF THE PROBLEM ITSELF.  
END SUMMARY.

1. THE VISIT OF AMBASSADOR GREEN BEGAN WITH A JOINT  
EMBASSY/AID BRIEFING. THIS MEETING FOCUSED ON THE RE-  
VIEW AND EVALUATION OF POPULATION DEVELOPMENTS IN BANGLADESH  
CONTAINED IN DACCA A-9 OF FEBRUARY 6 AND WAS INTENDED TO PERMIT AN  
EXPOSITION OF THESE PORTIONS OF THE REVIEW OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO  
AMBASSADOR GREEN. IN THE COURSE OF THE BRIEFING, THE RELATIONSHIP OF  
BOTH TITLE I AND TITLE II FOOD PROGRAMS TO POPULATION PLANNING WAS DIS-  
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CUSSED WITH DISCUSSION CENTERING ON THE DIFFICULTY TO RECONCILING FOOD

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WITH EFFORTS TO PROMOTE INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. IT WAS DENERALLY CONCLUDED THAT CONTINUED PROVISION OF FOOD WAS NECESSARY BUT SHOULD BE LINKED TO ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS PRO-

MOTING INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. THE TITLE II PROGRAM RECEIVED PARTICULAR ATTENTION IN THE BRIEFING, AS IT DID ALSO IN SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS WITH BDG PFFICIALS, AND IDEA OF COMBINING FOOD FOR WORK (FFW) AND FAMILY PLANNING(FP) PROJECTS WAS EXPLORED. TITLE II FFW/FP PROJECTS WERE VIEWED AS A POSSIBLE ADJUNCT TO THE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM,BUT IT WAS RECOGNIZED

THAT THE QUESTION OF FOOD BEING SEEN (AND IN FACT USED) AS AN ACCEPTOR INCENTIVE WILL REQUIRE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION IN THE PROGRAM PLANNING STAGE.

2. FOLLOWING THE GENERAL BRIEFING, AMBASSADOR GREEN MET WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE POPULATION PROGRAM OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DIRECTION

OF A VARIETY OF FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAMS. ON FEBRUARY 10, THE BANGLADESH FP ASSOCIATION'S PRESIDENT, DR. QUASEN, AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL MR. KABIR, OUTLINED A COMMUNITY BASED PROJECT THE BFPA IS OPERATING IN SEVEN UNIONS IN SEVEN DISTRICTS OF BANGLADESH. THE BFPA CLAIMS THESE UNIONS HAVE A 30 PERCENT LEVLE OF CONTRACEPTIVE PRACTICE

SINCE JULY 75. EXPANSION OF THIS PROGRAM IS UNDER REVIEW WITH THE BDG.

3. ON FEBRUARY 11, AMBASSADOR GREEN MET WITH DR. IBRAHIM, MEMBER, PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, POPULATION CONTROL AND FAMILY PLANNING, AND WITH DR. KHALEQUE, SECRETARY HEALTH DIVISION. BOTH OFFICIALS PROVIDED ASSURANCES THAT THE BDG HAS NOW GIVEN POPULATION CONTROL TOP PRIORITY. DR. IBRAHIM REVIEWED THE SIX DAY INTENSIVE FAMILY PLANNING INFORMATION CAMPAIGN THAT WAS DESIGNED TO BRING INFORMATION ON FAMILY PLANNING AND CONTRACEPTIVES TO THE DOOR OF EVERY COUPLE IN BANGLADESH BETWEEN JANUARY 26 TO 31. AN ESTIMATED 9 MILLION HOUSEHOLDS WERE CONTACTED DURING THIS CAMPAIGN AND DATA IS BEING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COLLECTED ON ACTUAL CONTRACEPTIVES DISTRIBUTED.

4. POPULATION SERVICES INTERNATION (PSI) PROJECT DIRECTOR CISZEWSKI BRIEFED AMBASSADOR GREEN ON THE RECENT NATIONWIDE LAUNCH OF SUBIDIZED CONTRACEPTIVES UNDER THE BDG/PSI/AID COMMERCIAL CONTRACEPTIVE MARKETING PROJECT. IT WAS NOTED THAT A COMMERCIAL SYSTEM COMPLEMENTS THE GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM AND PROVIDES A RAPID EXPANSION OF THE NUMBER

OF SERVICE OUTLETS AT NO MAJOR PERSONNEL OR FACILITY ESTABLISHMENT COSTS.

5. THE PVO, CONCERNED WOMEN FOR FAMILY PLANNING PROJECT DIRECTORS TOOK AMBASSADOR GREEN ON A TOUR OF SOME OF THEIR URBAN PROJECT AREAS. THE NECESSARY INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN WORKING WITH WOMEN WAS FIGURED AS A KEY TO SUCCESS IN THE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM. THIS FACT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED BY THE BDG AS THEY FINALLY MOVED FORWARD WITH RECRUITMENT OF THE FIRST 4,500 FEMALE FIELD WORKERS FOR THE PUBLIC PROGRAM.

6. ON FEBRUARY 12, AMBASSADOR GREEN, POPULATION CONTROL AND FAMILY PLANNING DIVISION SECRETARY SATTAR, AND USAID AND CHOLERA RESEARCH LABORATORY STAFF MEMBERS SPENT THE DAY IN MATLAB RHANA, THE CRL FIELD SITE. THE CONTRACEPTIVE SATURATION PROJECT DESIGNED TO BRING ORALS AND CONDOMS TO EVERY HOUSE IN THE PROJECT AREA WAS REVIEWED, AS WAS THE DATA FEEDBACK SYSTEM. IN ADDITION, THE BDG'S SWANIRVAR (SELF-RELIANCE) PUOGRAM WAS REVIEWED BY SATTAR IN SOME DEPTH. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN THE POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAM WAS SEEN AS THE MOST CRITICAL ELEMENT FOR PROGRAM SUCCESS AND SATTAR EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE SWANIRVAR MOVEMENT WOULD DEVELOP A STRONG BASE FOR THE POPULATION PROGRAM.

7. THROUGHOUT AMBASSADOR GREEN'S VISIT, PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS REPORTED THAT THE BDG HAD FINALLY DECIDED THAT IT MUST CONTROL POPULATION GROWTH IF THE NATION WERE TO SURVIVE. IT WAS RECOGNIZED THAT PROGRAM DIRECTION WAS NOT YET CLEAR BUT THERE WAS A MANDATE FOR ACTION. SOME INDIVIDUALS SUGGESTED THAT COMPULSORY STERILIZATION MAY EVENTUALLY BECOME A NECESSITY, BUT THERE WAS ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECOGNITION THAT COMPULSORY METHODS SHOULD NOT SERIOUSLY BE CONSIDERED UNTIL ALL VOLUNTARY METHODS OF BIRTH CONTROL HAD BEEN MADE READILY AVAILABLE TO THE POPULATION.

8. ON FEBRUARY 13, AMBASSADOR GREEN BRIEFED MISSION STAFF AND SPOUSES ON THE USG ROLE IN POPULATION AFFAIRS AND HE HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE (REPORTED SEPTTEL) PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. SINCE THE AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE, THE BDG OFFICIALS HE MET HAVE EXPRESSED TO MISSION STAFF MEMBERS THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THIS TIMELY VISIT. THEY PARTICULARLY NOTED THE INTEREST AMBASSADOR GREEN HAD IN THE BANGLADESH PROGRAM AND RECOGNIZED THAT THIS VISIT REINFORCED THE USG'S CONCERN WITH POPULATION GROWTH IN BANGLADESH. THE MISSION ALSO WISHES TO RECORD ITS APPRECIATION FOR THE TIME AND

ATTENTION AMBASSADOR GREEN PAID TO THIS MOST CRITICAL SUBJECT  
AREA.

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